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Emergency

0508552

0292

Aug. 25, 1963

EYES ONLY

367 Emergency

TO: ~~OPIM~~ DIR

EYES ONLY SECRETARY RUSK AND ASST SECRETARY HILSMAN FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE
AMBASSADOR SUGGESTS DEPT PASS ADM FELT.
REF: DEPTEL 243

~~[illegible]~~

BELIEVE THAT CHANCES OF DIEM'S MEETING OUR DEMANDS ARE VIRTUALLY NIL. AT SAME TIME, BY MAKING THEM WE GIVE NHU CHANCE TO FORESTALL OR BLOCK ACTION BY MILITARY. RISK, WE BELIEVE, IS NOT WORTH TAKING, WITH NHU IN CONTROL COMBAT FORCES SAIGON.

THEREFORE, PROPOSE WE GO STRAIGHT TO GENERALS WITH OUR DEMANDS, WITHOUT INFORMING DIEM. WOULD TELL THEM WE PREPARED HAVE DIEM WITHOUT NHUS BUT IT IS IN EFFECT UP TO THEM WHETHER TO KEEP HIM. WOULD ALSO INSIST GENERALS TAKE STEPS TO RELEASE BUDDHIST LEADERS AND CARRY OUT JUNE 16 AGREEMENT.

REQUEST IMMEDIATE MODIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS. HOWEVER, DO NOT PROPOSE MOVE UNTIL WE ARE SATISFIED WITH ~~[illegible]~~ E AND E PLANS.

HARKINS CONCURS.

I PRESENT CREDENTIALS PRESIDENT DIEM TOMORROW 11 A.M.

LODGE

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines
By KBH, NARA, Date 6/10/99

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